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CPYRGHT (SCIENTISTS)

THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS SAID THE UNITED STATES NO LONGER HAS A VAST SCIENTIFIC EDGE ON RUSSIA.

THE U.S.S.R. NOW HAS MORE SCIENTISTS THAN THE UNITED STATES, AND THE QUALITY OF THEIR WORK IN MANY FIELDS IS IMPRESSIVE, A COMMITTEE STAFF SPOKESMAN TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE.

HE SAID RUSSIA'S LAUNCHING OF SPUTNIK WAS NOT THE ISOLATED RESULT OF A CRASH PROGRAM BUT, RATHER, ONE MORE EVIDENCE OF A BROAD SCIENTIFIC ADVANCE.

HE RELEASED A PREVIOUSLY SECRET REPORT BY DR. HERBERT SCOVILL JR., ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, SHOWING THAT RUSSIA NOW HAS 1,500,000 (M) SCIENTISTS WORKING IN ALL FIELDS COMPARED TO 1,300,000 (M) IN THE UNITED STATES.

THE COMMITTEE SPOKESMAN SAID THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RUSSIAN EFFORT IS NOT THAT "WE OR THEY ARE A LITTLE AHEAD OR BEHIND EACH OTHER AT ANY PARTICULAR TIME," BUT THAT 20 YEARS AGO THE UNITED STATES WAS "VASTLY FAR AHEAD IN EVERY AREA."

SCOVILL'S REPORT SAID THE QUALITY OF RUSSIAN WORK IN SUCH FIELDS AS TELEVISION — USUALLY CONSIDERED TO BE PRIMARILY DOMINATED BY THE UNITED STATES — IS EXTREMELY IMPRESSIVE.

"THE RUSSIAN SETS ARE OF HIGH QUALITY," HE SAID. "THEIR COMPONENTS ARE SUPERIOR TO THOSE OF OUR SETS."

"IN THE LAST YEAR THERE HAS BEEN AN ATTEMPT TO BRING DOWN COST AND THE RUSSIANS HAVE CUT DOWN ON THE REFINEMENTS, BUT THESE WERE NON-ESSENTIALS SUCH AS THE CABINET AND NOT THINGS THAT COUNT."

SCOVILL ALSO SAID AMERICAN EXPERTS ARE IMPRESSED WITH THE QUALITY OF RUSSIAN WORK IN COLOR TV.

THE REPORT SAID THE QUALITY OF RUSSIAN MEDICINE IS ABOUT THE SAME AS IN THE UNITED STATES.

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THE COMMITTEE SPOKESMAN SAID ON THE OTHER HAND RUSSIAN HOSPITALS OF TEN ARE "OLD AND RICKETY BUILDINGS."

"THEY ARE MORE INTERESTED IN THE CONTENTS THAN IN THE PACKAGING," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT THE KREMLIN AND MOSCOW UNIVERSITY FACE EACH OTHER ACROSS A GREAT MALL. "THIS IS SIGNIFICANT," HE SAID.

HE SAID A MYTH HELD BY MANY AMERICANS IS THAT RUSSIAN SCIENTISTS ARE OF LOWER QUALITY THAN AMERICAN AND THAT RUSSIAN SCIENTISTS HAVE LESS FREEDOM TO DISCUSS THEIR WORK. HE SAID INTELLIGENCE REPORTS SHOW THIS IS NOT TRUE.

HE SAID THE UNITED STATES MUST DOUBLE ITS PRESENT EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES BY 1970 IF IT IS TO CONTINUE PROVIDING THE SAME QUALITY AND SCOPE OF EDUCATION THAT IT DOES TODAY.

"THAT MEANS WE MUST REPRODUCE ALL WE HAVE DEVELOPED SINCE HARVARD UNIVERSITY WAS FOUNDED IN 1636," HE SAID.

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